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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ABKHAZIA, GEORGIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 906 (1994) of 25 March 1994, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for an additional period ending on 30 June 1994. In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council on whatever progress was made in the negotiations as soon as it was achieved, and in any case no later than 21 June 1994, and on the situation on the ground, with special attention to circumstances which might warrant a peace-keeping force and on the modalities for such a force.

2. In the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994 (S/1994/583, annex I), both parties to the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, agreed that a peace-keeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) would be deployed to monitor compliance with the Agreement and also envisaged the deployment of United Nations military observers. Seeking further clarifications on the Agreement, the Secretariat held a series of technical discussions with representatives of the ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation between 23 and 26 May 1994. In my last report (S/1994/529/Add.1), I provided details of those discussions, which are continuing, and sought an early indication of the views of the members of the Security Council.

II. UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA

3. Pursuant to the letter of the President of the Security Council addressed to me on 16 June 1994 (S/1994/714), I am continuing my urgent consultations with the parties and with the Russian Federation regarding the future mandate and deployment of the expanded UNOMIG as well as the conditions and assurances of cooperation that would be needed for UNOMIG to discharge its mandate effectively. On the basis of these consultations I shall submit my detailed recommendations to the Council as soon as practicable.

III. REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

4. Preparations for the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons are continuing. The Quadripartite Commission, composed of representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, the Russian Federation and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as established by the quadripartite agreement signed in Moscow on 4 April 1994 (S/1994/397, annex II), has met regularly and adopted decisions on various matters such as the registration process, the rules and procedures of the Commission, the public information campaign as well as the assistance programme. Much of this work is conducted in working groups and in a constructive atmosphere.

5. The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs issued an addendum to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). It contains the revised programmes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which now include needs with regard to the returnee programme. The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs convened a donors' meeting on 27 May 1994 at Geneva in support of this activity and other humanitarian activities in the Caucasus and Tajikistan.

6. Financial and in-kind contributions are urgently required to allow UNHCR to put in place the required infrastructure, to detail the necessary staff, to start the registration system and to procure relief and rehabilitation items. Without adequate resources the returnee programme cannot commence.

IV. EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

7. A further round of negotiations convened by my Special Envoy for Georgia with the objective of making progress towards a comprehensive settlement took place in Moscow from 10 to 12 May 1994. During that meeting, on 11 May, both parties to the conflict signed a Proposal for the Establishment of a Coordinating Commission (S/1994/583, annex II) to discuss practical matters of mutual interest. The next round of political negotiations is scheduled to take place at Geneva on 30 June and 1 July 1994.

8. The Coordinating Commission held its first meeting at Sochi, Russian Federation, on 1 June under the chairmanship of a representative of the Russian Federation. The subjects discussed were transportation, energy and communications. The second meeting will take place at Sochi on 22 and 23 June to further discuss the transportation infrastructure (railways and highways), hydroelectric power and engineering and communications problems.

9. My Special Envoy for Georgia informed the Committee of Senior Officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), at its meeting held at Prague on 15 June, of his efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement in Abkhazia. He underlined the importance of close and continuous cooperation between the United Nations and CSCE.

10. In the circumstances, I recommend to the Security Council that the existing mandate of UNOMIG be extended at its current authorized strength, for a further period of one month, until 31 July 1994.